

Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Application No. 10/083,533
Attorney Docket No. 020244

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 12 and 14 are pending. Claims 16-39 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US2003/0111695 to Kanamori in view of US 6294430 to Fastow et al. Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanamori and Fastow as applied to claims 1 and 9 and further in view of US 6406959 to Prall et al. Claims 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanamori and Fastow as applied to claims 1 and 9, and further in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art.

Applicants note that Kanamori, which is relied upon for all the above rejections has a U.S. filing date of December 17, 2001. This date is after applicants' priority date to Japanese Application 2001-205188 of July 5, 2001. Therefore, in response to the rejections, applicants' have herein submitted a verified translation of the Japanese priority application to perfect priority. This priority removes Kanamori as a reference, and thereby renders the rejections moot.

In view of the above remarks and accompanying verified translation, Applicants submit that the claims, as previously presented, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Verified trans. of JP Appl. 2001-205188